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NA - S & PF Field Office
Amherst, Mass. 01002

The Record

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Representative, FPC

August 13, 1968

Cooperative White Pine Blister
Rust Control

On July 15 I traveled from Amherst, Mass. to Oakland, Maryland with brief stopover at Area Office, on a BRC Service trip.

July 16 was spent with Paul Mateer and Owen Handwerk preparing F. Y. 1968 annual reports and reviewing BR records. Data for the reports were all summarized so annual reports were completed readily. Mateer was confused as to what was wanted on the status report but believe he understands this now. Mateer had no information on BRC expenditures, except for crew labor, which he gave me. Expenditures for Administration and Technical Services will have to be taken from the Financial Plan. Tunis Lyon stopped at the Oakland Office and we asked him about expenditures but he knew nothing. This would have to come from Annapolis. Neither Lyon nor Mateer had ever seen a copy of the Financial Plan.

After reviewing the records of BRC in Maryland, several suggestions were made:

1. All records be put on form NE-5200-75. Mateer accepted this suggestion as he had been considering some kind of a permanent record form. Using this form will facilitate annual work planning and also annual reporting. At present, records for each individual area are being kept in a separate folder. The use of NE-5200-75 will put all records of work and projected work load together in one binder. Forms and a binder have been sent to Mateer.

2. That pine and control area outside of Garrett County be dropped from the records. This pine and control area has no BR problem and has not been given attention for many years. This will reduce the pine acreage within the control area from a little over 78,000 acres to about 6200 acres and the control area from about 190,000 acres to about 22,000 acres.

3. That all control areas be surveyed for ribes before assigning crews for intensive work. At present, the ribes eradication crew is sent in to strip the area without any pre-eradication survey. This results in the crew running strips through ribes free areas. Ribes survey would eliminate this needless work and help reduce per acre costs.

4. The cost per acre of control area averaged nearly \$3.00 in F.Y. 1968. This seems high. To help reduce this cost, the pre-eradication survey was recommended, as in 3. above, and also the use of control area evaluation in all areas prior to any work.

On July 17 accompanied Mateer and Handwerk on a trip to the field. First we visited the crew working control area for the Margraff planting on State land near Accident, Maryland. This was normally an eight man crew but three men were absent that day, leaving a five man crew. After observing the crew at work, two suggestions were made:

1. That consideration be given to using three man units for more efficient work.

2. That leaves and duff be pulled away from the crown of ribes before spraying, to obtain better spray coverage of the root crown area and insure better kill. Mateer immediately instructed the crew to follow this procedure and we demonstrated how to do it.

We then went to a portion of the control area that had been worked the day before and checked a portion of it. In a very small area we found 10 or more ribes with more than twenty feet of live stem indicating unacceptable work. Mateer will instruct the foreman to rework the area. At this point, we discussed checking of completed work and found that little or none was being done. Suggested that a portion of every control area be sampled by a check, using a strip check or measured general check, and that the foreman be told of the findings and the quality of work expected. Mateer agreed this was needed and will see that more checking is done.

In the early afternoon we checked the Harvey Dickinson and Meyers plantations, both on private land, which had been worked earlier this year. Tordon 101 had been used in this work. Here again we found missed bushes quite numerous considering that the crew found less than 4 ribes per acre in these areas. This again indicated the need for more checking of completed work to be sure the work meets standards.

In all areas visited no infection on pine was seen; however, we did not make an intensive search for it. Ribes found were examined for infection and not one leaf with infection was found. Admittedly only a small sample of Garrett County control area was seen but this sample makes me wonder if the BR problem has not been over emphasized. In many of the areas I believe a control area evaluation would indicate that control work is not buying anything.

Late in the afternoon I accompanied Mateer and Dr. F.D. Custer of Oakland, Md. to Custer's Xmas tree planting (175 acres) at Stony River, West Virginia. He has suspected air pollution damage, and other problems, perhaps pathological. Suggested he get in touch with Dr. True, U. of West Va.; also agreed to see if Bill Lautz of Delaware F.O. could schedule a trip to Oakland to look at these problems and also hardwood problems Mateer has.

M. R. MULHOLLAND

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MRM: ekt